

JOINT ENGINEERING PROGRAMS UK/UofL/WKU/MuSU

ACTION
Agenda Item F-1
February 5, 2001

Recommendation

- The staff recommends that the council reassert its commitment to the “Strategy for Statewide Engineering Education in Kentucky” and to approving joint programs in engineering to begin fall 2001.
- The staff recommends that the council commend Western Kentucky University, Murray State University, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Louisville for their work in creating the two attached Frameworks of Agreement on joint bachelor’s degrees in civil, mechanical, electrical, and telecommunications engineering starting fall 2001. The universities will soon seek approval for each joint program, providing full detail on curriculum, staffing, and cost.

Background

At its July 2000 meeting, the council approved the “Strategy for Statewide Engineering Education in Kentucky” that called for the creation of joint programs to increase the number of baccalaureate engineers in the commonwealth and address regional issues of access and productivity in engineering education. Joint programs are to be built on the strengths of existing engineering programs at UK and UofL while accommodating employer needs identified by the comprehensive universities.

The Frameworks of Agreement address faculty, accreditation, curriculum, and administrative issues in a manner consistent with the Strategy for Statewide Engineering Education. Under the Frameworks of Agreement:

- WKU will work with UK to offer joint bachelor’s degree programs in civil engineering and mechanical engineering and will work with UofL to offer a joint bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering. The programs will be offered on the WKU campus.
- MuSU will work with UofL to offer a joint bachelor’s degree program in electrical and telecommunications engineering. The program will be offered on the MuSU campus.
- For the three WKU-UK-UofL programs, a Joint Engineering Program Steering Committee consisting of senior administrators from the participating universities would oversee program policies. The MuSU-UofL program will also have a Joint Engineering Program Steering Committee.
- For the three WKU-UK-UofL programs, an Admissions Committee (consisting of departmental administrators and faculty from the three universities) would ensure that common admissions standards prevail. The MuSU-UofL program will also have a joint Admissions Committee.

The council staff continues to discuss with institutional administrators methods of funding the joint engineering programs during the 2001-02 academic year. The council staff is developing a budget

recommendation for engineering to be included in the New Economy Initiative for the 2002-04 biennium.

FRAMEWORK OF AGREEMENT**MUSU-UofL JOINT BACHELOR'S DEGREE
IN ELECTRICAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERING**

Murray State University (MuSU) and the University of Louisville (UofL) wish to enter into an agreement to jointly offer a Bachelor of Science degree program in electrical and telecommunications engineering. The joint degree program will be developed based on the following understanding:

1. The joint degree program will be developed and offered consistent with the "Strategy for Statewide Engineering Education in Kentucky" recommended by the presidents of the public post-secondary institutions in the state and adopted by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education in July 2000.
2. The joint degree program will follow the principles contained in the policy on Joint Programs approved by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.
3. The joint degree program will be offered on the campus of Murray State University.
4. The two universities agree to pursue the development of the joint degree program as expeditiously as possible so that the curriculum can be implemented with beginning freshmen in the fall, 2001. The University of Louisville will begin offering upper division courses by fall, 2003.
5. The two universities agree to present the basic outlines and principles of the joint degree program to the February 2001 meeting of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.
6. The two universities will agree on the curriculum. The curriculum will be consistent with EAC/ABET criteria. General education requirements will be coordinated through the state-wide General Education Transfer Framework agreement and through negotiation of any outstanding additional issues.
7. The two universities will be jointly responsible for course offerings and will fulfill instructional responsibilities consistent with SACS accreditation standards. The University of Louisville will be expected to be responsible for approximately 16-24 hours of engineering course work per year in the discipline. This course work may be offered through both electronic and on-campus formats and may in part be offered by faculty who hold joint faculty appointments between Murray State University and the University of Louisville. Murray State University will be expected to provide the balance of the course work leading to the degrees. The two universities will agree on appropriate delivery formats.
8. The University of Louisville and Murray State University will seek supplemental funds through the Council on Postsecondary Education to meet their instructional responsibilities to the joint degree program. The credentials of all faculty assigned by any of the participating universities to the program will be consistent with applicable SACS and EAC/ABET criteria.

9. Faculty in the program will be employed and hold their primary faculty status with the "home" institution. The University of Louisville and Murray State University shall be collaboratively involved in the process of staffing the electrical and telecommunications engineering program. All newly hired tenured/tenure-track program faculty will normally possess an appropriate doctorate in the discipline or closely related discipline. All program faculty will be subject to the tenure and promotion guidelines of their "home" institution. All program faculty will be eligible for licensure as professional engineers in Kentucky. The University of Louisville may grant appropriate faculty status to Murray State University faculty members assigned to the joint program. Murray State University may grant appropriate faculty status to faculty members assigned to the joint degree program by the University of Louisville.
10. The joint program will be hosted by the Department of Physics and Engineering in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology at Murray State University. Administration of the department will be the responsibility of the chair of the Department of Physics and Engineering. The dean of the college, following existing policies and procedures of Murray State University, will select the department chair. It is expected that the dean of the college will discuss with the dean of engineering at the University of Louisville the appointment and reappointment of the chair of the Department of Physics and Engineering. The chair of the department will report to the dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology at Murray State University. The chair of the Department of Physics and Engineering at Murray State University, in consultation with the chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Louisville, will report to the deans of engineering at Murray State University and the University of Louisville on all matters involving the joint program in electrical and telecommunications engineering.
11. A program coordinator for the joint engineering program will be appointed from the resident program faculty by the dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology at Murray State University in consultation with the dean of engineering at the University of Louisville. A liaison for the joint program will be appointed by the dean of engineering at the University of Louisville in consultation with the dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology.
12. A Joint Engineering Program Steering Committee will be created to oversee the implementation of program policies and formulation of changes and/or new policies. The committee takes policy changes through the respective universities' established processes. Membership consists of the Provost of the University of Louisville, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs of Murray State University, the Dean of the Speed Scientific School at the University of Louisville, and the Dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology at Murray State University or their designated representatives.
13. Insofar as possible, the participating universities agree that course work leading to each of the degrees will be articulated with the partnering institution. Since the curriculum of the joint program will incorporate some innovative elements, the universities agree that the curriculum will be comparable, but not identical with the companion program at the University of Louisville.

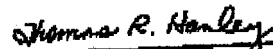
14. The universities agree that an Admissions Committee, whose members will ensure that students entering the program meet common admissions standards and that criteria for recommending admission are applied uniformly, will govern admission into the joint program. Membership will consist of the associate dean of engineering for undergraduate studies at the University of Louisville and two members of the program faculty at Murray State University selected by the chair of the Department of Physics and Engineering.
15. Only freshmen will be admitted into the joint engineering program in electrical and telecommunications engineering in fall 2001.
16. Murray State University will provide basic administrative support for the joint degree program, including admission services, registration, and student financial aid.
17. Academic advising will be provided by the full-time resident faculty at Murray State University and by any full-time faculty members assigned to the program by the University of Louisville.
18. Laboratory and equipment support for the joint degree program will be provided by Murray State University, supplemented by appropriate additional resources provided by the state. Murray State University and the University of Louisville agree to prepare a joint proposal through the Council on Postsecondary Education for special state funding to support sufficient faculty positions in the joint degree program to meet EAC/ABET criteria and for laboratory and equipment support.
19. Murray State University agrees to provide appropriate library and media resources to support the joint degree program supplemented by resources that can be made available by the University of Louisville and the Kentucky Virtual Library.
20. The two universities agree to study ways in which distance learning technologies and the Kentucky Virtual University can be used to effectively and efficiently deliver instructional content for the joint degree program.



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January 22, 2001
Date